A Newsletter from the CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health

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Aboriginal Health Research News

Message from Dr. Malcolm King, IAPH Scientific Director

The announcements of the results of the latest round of CIHR operating grants and awards have recently been made. There are a number of noteworthy successes in the area of Aboriginal/Indigenous health. Some of these will be featured in this newsletter and others in subsequent ones. The CIHR funding database contains a wealth of information and I encourage you to visit it. If one looks at the Results of the March 2013 Operating Grants competition, and opens the Funding decisions data report, then clicks on "Refine Search Criteria", and adds the terms "Aboriginal, Indigenous, First Nation, Inuit, Métis" in the keyword search, a total of 10 operating grants come up, six of which were reviewed by the Aboriginal Health (ABH) peer-review committee. This is the largest number of successful grants ever reviewed by this panel. This success is due certainly to the quality of the grants that were reviewed, and is also reflective of the numbers submitted.

I'm particularly pleased to see the application pressure increase; this tells me that our Aboriginal health research capacity-building efforts are succeeding. In fact, perusing through the details of the successful grants (each grant or award listed in the results has a "details" link), one cannot help noticing many names among the investigators who are "graduates" of the ACADRE-NEAHR system.

Also obviously important were the Priority Announcements attached to the Open Operating Grant competition. Three PAs were available to applicants, namely *Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, Applying the "Two-eyed Seeing" Model to Aboriginal Health*, and a general PA for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health. As a result of the PAs, there were a number of additional successes, six in total. Thus the total number of Aboriginal health related grants – 16 – represent 3% of all the operating grants awarded by CIHR in the Winter 2013 Operating Grant competition. Congratulations to all who succeeded, and best wishes on success in your research projects.

I'd also like to thank the peer reviewers and staff who took part in the reviews. The increased numbers of grant applications mean more work, more time. A sincere Miigwech for your efforts!

Funding Update

Pathways Funding Announcement: PEKEs

(EOI Deadline: August 19, 2013)

On July 09, 2013 CIHR and its partners announced the July 2013 Funding Opportunities, including the Pathways PEKEs.

Following the Pathways Partner Forum held in October 2012, CIHR was encouraged to include an approach that would engage communities in more meaningful ways, while addressing Pathways' overall goal of health equity for Aboriginal peoples. In response, four distinct funding opportunities are being developed: Partners for Engagement and Knowledge Exchange (PEKEs), Pathways Implementation Research Teams (IRTs), Pathways Research and Training Chairs (Chairs), and Population Health Intervention Research Grants (PHIRs).

Partners for Engagement and Knowledge Exchange (PEKEs) grants will fund Aboriginal organizations to become partners in the research projects, to facilitate learning across funded research teams, and to support the translation of research findings into policy and practice decision-making. Aboriginal organizations will enable Aboriginal voices, ways of knowing, and culture to all feed into the work. The overall goal of the PEKEs is to facilitate the implementation teams and the research chairs in scaling up interventions across communities and translating the findings into policies and improved health.

This funding program will be open to two different kinds of Aboriginal organizations.

- Aboriginal organizations with a national mandate to represent First Nations, Métis, Inuit or urban Aboriginal peoples; or
- Aboriginal organizations with a regional, sub-population or topic-specific focus which is interested in collaborating with other organization(s) that already have a national mandate to represent First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or urban Aboriginal peoples.

Pathways Funding Announcement: PEKEs - cont'd

The process for selecting PEKEs will involve two Phases: Phase I is foremost about identifying key organizations and opportunities for linking organizations (if necessary) in an effort to ensure pan-Canadian participation and representation. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process has been designed to encourage Aboriginal organizations to share innovative ideas on how they are proposing to tackle the goals articulated in the Request for Applications (RFA) and to articulate how they envision leveraging their organizations' strengths to advance Pathways through PEKEs. EOIs can be submitted by Aboriginal organizations that have a national mandate and are prepared to advance Pathways by forming a PEKE that can represent First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and/or urban Aboriginal people across Canada. Aboriginal organizations with a regional, sub-population or topic-specific focus can also submit an EOI. Organizations submitting an EOI are asked to: describe their unique contribution to the Pathways Initiative, state their willingness to join forces at an enhancement workshop, and indicate how they will collaborate with other National Organizations in developing a full proposal to form a PEKE.

New Funding Opportunities launched this month

Network Catalyst Grant – Skeletal Muscle, Skin, Aboriginal Knowledge and Ways of Knowing, and Adding Life to the Late Years

Application deadline: November 1, 2013

Pathways PEKEs

EOI submission deadline: August 19, 2013

Operating Grant : Population Health Intervention Research (Fall 2013 Competition)

LOI submission deadline: September 11, 2013

This funding opportunity includes funding for both Pathways-related projects as well as IAPH mandate related projects

Fellowship : Fall 2013 Priority Announcements

Application deadline: November 15, 2013

- Aboriginal Research Methodologies
- Research in First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit Health

Planning Grants / Dissemination Events : Fall 2013 Priority Announcements

Application deadline: October 15, 2013

- First Nations Inuit or Métis planning activities
- First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis Knowledge Dissemination Activities

Don't forget these funding opportunities launched in June!

Doctoral Research Award : Fall 2013 Priority Announcements

Application deadline: October 1, 2013

- Aboriginal Research Methodologies
- Research in First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit Health

Operating Grant : Fall 2013 Priority Announcements

Application deadline: September 16, 2013

- Aboriginal Ways of Knowing
- Applying the "Two-eyed Seeing" Model to Aboriginal Health
- First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis Health (Bridge Funding)

Pathways – Population Health Intervention Grants

WEBINAR – August 8th, 2013 at 12:00pm EDT

The CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health, the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, the Institute of Aging, CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation have launched the Population Health Intervention Research Operating Grant competition. This competition also includes a focus on CIHR's Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples Signature Initiative. ***Letter of intent deadline: September 11th, 2013.***

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support the prompt initiation of population health intervention research on rapidly unfolding programs, policies and resource distribution approaches that have been initiated by others (e.g., policy makers) and have the potential to impact health and health equity at the population level.

- Review the PHIR funding opportunity
- Register for the PHIR Webinar by DATE
- Participate in the PHIR Webinar, August 8th; 12pm EDT

IAPH funding results

IAPH would like to congratulate those who were successful in the following competitions.

Fellowship - PA: Mixed Methods Approach in Aboriginal Research

MORRISON, Michael R (University of Western Ontario)
A Psychosocial Approach to Fostering Improved Mental Health Among Aboriginal Canadians

Fellowship - PA: Research in First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit health

FILLION, Myriam (University of Ottawa)
Interactions between food security, traditional food consumption, nutrients, contaminant exposure and anemia among Canadian Inuit

FORTIN, Marilyn (Université Laval)
Transmission intergénérationnelle mère-adolescent du boire excessif chez les Inuits

Funding Results - cont'd

MORRIS, Marika (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health)
Inuit Knowledge Translation: Community-controlled, culturally-sensitive research with Inuit youth on experiences of violence, health effects and coping mechanisms, engaging Inuit youth in developing a research-based, health promotion campaign on issues of violence using social media

TREMBLAY, Marie-Claude (McGill University)
The Kahnawake School Diabetes Prevention Project as a community 'social movement'. Taking into account the community level outcome of a health promotion program in an Indigenous community.

Operating Grant - PA: Aboriginal Ways of Knowing

CURRIE, Cheryl L (University of Lethbridge)
What Social Determinants Contribute to High Allostatic Load among Aboriginal Adults?

MARTIN-HILL, Dawn (McMaster University)
Tehtsitehwa:kenrotka:we (together we pull it from the earth again) - The Ohero:kon Youth Health Intervention

Operating Grant - PA: Applying the "Two-eyed Seeing" model to Aboriginal Health

EPISKENEW, Jo-Ann M (University of Regina)
Kitinikewin misiwanacihisowin: Researching arts-based wellness promotion for suicide prevention among Aboriginal youth

Operating Grant - PA: First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health

JARDINE, Cynthia (University of Alberta)
Engaging Aboriginal Youth in Tobacco Prevention Using Social Media

RICHTER, Andrea (Hôpital Sainte-Justine)
Cirhin's function extends far beyond North American Indian childhood cirrhosis

WOODGATE, Roberta L (University of Manitoba)
Aboriginal youth living with HIV: From diagnosis to learning to manage their health and lives

Planning Grants - PA: First Nations, Inuit or Métis Planning Activities

JACKLIN, Kristen M (Laurentian University of Sudbury)
Age-Related Cognitive Decline in Indigenous Peoples: Developing International Strategies to Improve Diagnosis and Care

MAGEE, Laura A (University of British Columbia)
Mapping Maternal Health Risk of Canadian Aboriginal Women

SHAW, Nicola T (Algoma University - Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario)
Adverse Childhood Experiences: First Nations (ACE-FN)

Dissemination Events - PA: First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health

ANGEL, Jonathan B (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)
Ensuring the inclusion and participation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada at the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) New Researcher Workshop

BOMBAY, Amy (University of Ottawa)
Reaching target stakeholders at TRC national events: Dissemination of research exploring the intergenerational effects of Indian Residential Schools and the issue of student-to-student abuse

CARTER, Sheila
Telling our Stories, Sharing our Successes: The Second Metis Knowledge Exchange

MULLETT, Jennifer (Vancouver Island University)
Prevention and Preservation: The methodology of digital stories for preserving cultural knowledge for community health

Aboriginal Health Researchers in the News

Several Aboriginal health researchers have been featured in the media in recent weeks. Articles in the Spring 2013 edition of CIHR's *Show Me the Evidence* showcase the research of Dr. Colleen Dell, Carol Hopkins, and Dr. Ann Macaulay. Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein was interviewed on the internet radio show *Sacred Journey*, where she addressed Indigenous local and traditional food security. Also, IAPH's Scientific Director Dr. Malcolm King and wife Dr. Alexandra King appeared on Vancouver's Co-Op Radio 100.5FM to speak about National Aboriginal Day and other topics.

Dr. Colleen Dell & Carol Hopkins

From Stilettos to Moccasins: A Healing Journey

Dr. Colleen Anne Dell and Carol Hopkins, Executive Director of the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF) were recently highlighted in CIHR's Spring 2013 edition of *Show Me the Evidence* for their work in conducting research "by, for and with" Aboriginal peoples to address drug and alcohol addiction among First Nations, Métis and Inuit women.

Dr. Dell and Ms. Hopkins are carrying their work forward with a three-year project called Honouring our Strengths: Culture as Intervention in Addictions Treatment, part of which involves visiting treatment centres across the country to discuss the impact of culture on well-being.

Dr. Ann Macaulay

A Community Effort: Proving the Power of Participatory Research

For her work in community-based participatory research with the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP), Dr. Ann Macaulay is featured in the Spring 2013 edition of *Show Me the Evidence*. Having been a general practitioner

Aboriginal Health Researchers in the News - cont'd

in the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory since the 1970s, Dr. Ann Macaulay and her colleagues have seen an increase in type 2 diabetes and the heart disease, strokes and cardiovascular deterioration that come with it.

The community of Kahnawake is a full partner in KSDPP from concept to completion, and through the Community Advisory Board, people take part in developing objectives, planning and implementing interventions and evaluations, collecting and interpreting data, reviewing all publications, and disseminating results.

Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein

Indigenous Peoples and the Global Significance of Their Traditional Foods and Food Systems

In July, Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein did an interview with the show Sacred Journey hosted by Audrey E. Kitagawa on the VoiceAmerica 7th Wave internet media channel. Dr. Kuhnlein spoke to her international research around demonstrating the superior nutritional values of the traditional foods of Indigenous peoples, and the series of three books created to promote the use and preservation of Indigenous peoples' local and traditional foods. The book was recently released by the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Drs. Alexandra & Malcolm King

National Aboriginal Day on CO-OP Radio 100.5FM

On June 21st, Drs. Alexandra and Malcolm King were guests on the radio show "Crossroads" on Vancouver's Co-Op Radio 100.5FM, and spoke about their perspectives on National Aboriginal Day, cultural competency, truth and reconciliation, and Aboriginal health research.

The Kings reiterated the importance of National Aboriginal Day as a time to recognize the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the fabric of Canada, and that it is important to focus on the positive things Aboriginal peoples have contributed… the strengths of our people, the connection to the land, and the importance of culture to healthy living. When asked how Aboriginal peoples can help non-Aboriginals understand issues and address concerns, the Kings noted that it is important for the general Canadian public to hear the stories about residential schools, and this history should be taught in schools. They affirmed that the Canadian public and Aboriginal peoples need to connect better and that there are a lot of initiatives that need to be driven by Aboriginal people.

2013 National Gathering of Graduate Students

The 2013 National Gathering of Graduate Students (NGGS) was held on June 23-25 at the UBC First Nations House of Learning, hosted by Kloshe Tillicum, the BC/Yukon Network Environment for Aboriginal Health Research (NEAHR). This annual event provides a capacity building forum for students to present and discuss their research as well as facilitate networking opportunities with community and academic researchers and other students in the Aboriginal health field.

On the first day, participants heard presentations on the history of the Musqueam people by Ms. Gail Sparrow (former Musqueam Chief, now regarded as a community knowledge holder), the history of the UBC First Nations House of Learning by Dr. Rod McCormick (Associate Professor, Counselling Psychology, UBC; Investigator with Kloshe Tillicum), and the history of the NGGS by Dr. Jeff Reading (former Scientific Director of IAPH). There was also a "New Investigators Session", in which Dr. Heather Castleden (AAHRP), Myriam Filion (Nasivvik) and Shelly Johnson (Kloshe Tillicum) spoke of their experiences in becoming Investigators in Aboriginal health research.

On Day 2, Adrian Miller of the Jirrbal people of North Queensland, Professor of Indigenous Research at Griffith University and lead of the Indigenous Research Network, gave a keynote presentation on Indigenous Research. Professor Miller described the concept of Aboriginalism and how it relates to research, emphasizing that it is essential that Indigenous people have an empowering role in developing, controlling and determining their own epistemological trajectory through Participatory Action Research. The Gathering held "Mentorship Conversations" in which established investigators and instructors held open dialogues with participants on topics such as nature & healing, connection between story & healing, mentorship, emotional intelligence & metaphysical reality, and Aboriginal health research careers.

The IAPH Scientific Director Awards were presented by Dr. Malcolm King where the winners evidenced collaboration and partnership with Aboriginal communities in guiding their research. The winners were: Kimberly Hart (U Manitoba) - Masters Award, Diana Campbell (Dalhousie U) - PhD Proposal Award, and Robert Henry (U Saskatchewan) - PhD Analysis Award.

On the last day of the Gathering, representatives from the First Nations Health Authority gave presentations on the history, inception, jurisdiction and scope of the new organization. The event concluded with a large closing circle of all the participants, each reflecting on what they learned over the previous days and what they would be taking forward with them.

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health fosters the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, through research, knowledge translation and capacity building. The Institute's pursuit of research excellence is enhanced by respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledge, values and cultures.

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